



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:

Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can
~ John Wesley

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**Mentoring System
Involved Youth Highlights**

Message from MSİY TATP

The MSİY Technical Assistance Team and PIRE teams are grateful for the opportunity we had to meet with each of you during the October Cross-Site Meeting.

We are excited and inspired by the amount of work you have completed and the conversations held during our meeting. You've achieved a number of successes, and shared quite a few great lessons learned. And we had a number of very good conversations about telling the story of

your projects. We also heard you would like to continue speaking with and learning from one another on several key topics such as supporting mentoring relationships and fundraising. We appreciate your continuing commitment to your projects, and encourage you to please contact us at any time if we can help with any aspect of your work.

Please continue to refine and work on your Action plans. MSY TATP will follow-up with each of you soon to further review your Action plans and ways we can support your work. As well, PIRE will also follow-up with you around your surveys and evaluation.

Please don't hesitate to contact any of us with questions or suggestions for how we can be of assistance. We know that working together we can achieve and document your story of the positive changes that mentoring makes in the lives of our youth.

News from PIRE

Welcome back home from Boston! We have started back with a renewed intention for demonstrating your outcomes. It was exciting to have sufficient surveys to make a preliminary report. We found that three months after the match:

When the answers given by the youth were analyzed for all scales of the **Youth Match survey**, they were generally around the midpoint of the scales. This indicates the youth generally had a **positive feeling** about the quality of their relationship with their mentors. At this three-month mark, they perceived their mentoring relationship as **midway along** on being focused on fun activities, growth activities, and headed toward building a deeper, lasting relationship.

The mean scores from the **Mentor Match survey** at three months indicate that mentors feel that their relationships with their mentees are having **positive effects** on the youths' intellectual and academic development. Results of three programs are generally around the **midpoint** of the scale, with the exception of one program, whose baseline results showed that mentors felt that the mentor/mentee relationship had a **strong positive** impact on the intellectual and academic development of the youth.

At PIRE, we are working with the three points of our message triangle to highlight the data collection efforts that will have the most effect on showing the outcomes (impact) of your mentoring program.

1. Take a moment each week to record the main aspects of your program performed that week and any story that you heard along the way. We would like to have some anonymous profiles of the youth and/or stories of their contact with the program or mentors. Record the time you take to support the matches on your activity sheet on SharePoint. The time you spend with the mentors and the youth is an **activity** that can be recorded on SharePoint by choosing the "Paid Mentor" option. Look for an updated guide to the SharePoint manual next week.
2. Follow-up surveys. If a youth has or has not been active, please try for the **follow-up surveys** anyway. Youth who dropped out before they spent more than a couple of hours with their mentors may be candidates to be tapped for the comparison group. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you'd like more guidance.

3. The final point of the triangle is the comparison group. Listen out for a call with an offer of help to move this along in the next weeks. We are hoping together we can get this going in the next weeks.

Thanks for all you do! Hilary and Matt



Report: Treatment Cuts Recidivism Nearly in Half

Criminal offenders who completed in-prison and community-based treatment were far less likely to end up back in prison than those who did not get services, according to a new report from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). The report found that in fiscal year 2005–06 the return-to-custody rate among treatment graduates was 21.9 percent at one year and 35.3 percent after two years, compared with 39.9 percent and 54.2 percent, respectively, for all offenders. The research showed that treatment was especially effective for female offenders, just 8.8 percent of whom re-offended within a year of release if they completed treatment. That compared with a recidivism rate of 30.1 percent overall. After two years, the recidivism rate was 16.5 percent for women who completed treatment, compared with 43.7 percent among all female offenders. To learn more and to download the report, go to http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/News/2009_Press_Releases/Oct_07.html.

Evaluating Mentoring Programs

This methodological brief is designed to provide both program operators and researchers with practical advice about how to assess a program's implementation and effect. Adapted from an article that first appeared in *The Handbook of Youth Mentoring* (DuBois and Karcher, eds. 2005), the brief discusses recommendations for how to choose appropriate process and impact measures, explains several impact design issues, and goes over common mistakes made when analyzing evaluation data and presents ways to avoid them. Download the brief at http://www.ppv.org/ppv/publications/assets/303_publication.pdf.

Report on OJJDP's Tribal Youth Programs

The American Youth Policy Forum and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) have released the report *Strengthening Indian Country Through Tribal Youth Programs*, which examines how Tribal Youth Programs (TYPs) are succeeding in improving the lives of youth and strengthening families through detailed case studies of five TYPs. The TYPs featured in this report empower youth to lead the community in activities that build a sense of attachment to heritage, promote belonging, support personal development, and provide exposure to career-related skills. The report finds that the benefits of TYPs include fewer youth engaging in risky behaviors, youth and their families engaging in Native culture and language, youth learning life skills as they engage in and lead projects that make a difference in the community, and youth breaking the cycle of abuse in their lives as they spend time with and receive guidance from caring adults who help them make informed decisions and/or choices that help them plan for their future. Download the report at <http://www.aypf.org/forumbriefs/2009/documents/TYPReportfinal.pdf>.

National Mentoring Month 2010

January 2010 will be the ninth annual National Mentoring Month (NMM)—a concentrated burst of national and local media activity combined with White House and congressional involvement and extensive community outreach to institutionalize the nation's commitment to long-term mentoring. National partners for NMM are the Harvard School of Public Health, MENTOR, and the Corporation for National and Community Service. The theme for NMM 2010, which includes the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service (January 18) and Thank Your Mentor Day (January 21), will continue to be Expand Your Universe. Mentor a Child. For information on local partners with NNM resources in your area, go to http://www.nationalmentoringmonth.org/about_nmm/localpartners/.

Department of Justice Releases OJJDP Bulletin Summarizing Survey Results on Children's Exposure to Violence

This bulletin from OJJDP describes the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence (NatSCEV), a nationwide survey of the incidence and prevalence of children's exposure to violence. NatSCEV estimated both past-year and lifetime exposure to violence across a number of categories, including physical assault, bullying, sexual victimization, child maltreatment, dating violence, and witnessed and indirect victimization. The NatSCEV study showed high levels of exposure to violence among a nationally representative sample of youth. More than three in five reported being direct or indirect victims of violence in the past year, and of those, nearly two-thirds were victimized more than once. For more information, visit http://www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojjdp/news_at_glance/228325/topstory.html. To download the bulletin, go to <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/227744.pdf>.

Resource Center to Provide Information on Implementing Federal Reforms to Child Welfare Policies

October 7, 2009, was the one-year anniversary of the Fostering Connections Act, the most comprehensive federal reforms to child welfare policy in over a decade. To mark this important date, the Annie E. Casey Foundation has joined a coalition of child welfare leaders to create a Fostering Connections Resource Center to provide nonpartisan information to states as they implement the act. The Resource Center provides a range of data, online tools, and technical support on all aspects of the Fostering Connections Act. The Resource Center also provides access to national networks of state-based and local stakeholders organized according to the six major topic areas of the law—adoption, kinship, older youth, tribal child welfare, health, and education. To visit the Fostering Connections Resource Center, go to <http://www.fosteringconnections.org>.



Conferences and Events

Date: November 16–18, 2009

Location: Atlanta, Georgia

Title: Youth Success Strategies Conference

Sponsor: Georgia Parental Information and Resource Center and the Adolescent Family Life Demonstration Project in partnership with Communities in Schools of Georgia

Description: Workshop highlights will include Train the Mentor Trainer; Caregiver's Choice: Working with Children of Prisoners; Service Learning: Hunger and Homelessness; Service Learning: Peer Tutoring; Youth Influence in Media Madness; Search Institute 40 Developmental

Assets; The Games That Children Play; The Power of One; and Helping Families Survive and Thrive Around 9 to 5. Featured speakers and presenters will include James Conway, a senior youth trainer representing Search Institute; Rory Edwards, president of Edwards Educational Consulting, LLC; Marc Fomby, chief executive officer and founder of FTC Prevention Services; Byron V. Garrett, chief executive officer of the PTA national office; Dr. Marion Howard, professor in the School of Medicine at Emory University; Cathryn Berger Kaye, service learning consultant and author of *The Complete Guide to Service Learning*; Dr. Stephen Sroka, an internationally recognized speaker, trainer, author, teacher, and educational consultant; and Dr. Susan Weinberger, president of the Mentor Consulting Group.

For more information: <http://www.cisga.org/youthsuccessconf.php>

Date: December 4, 2009

Location: Kenosha, Wisconsin

Title: Mentor Kenosha & Racine 2009 Annual Mentor Conference: Growing Youth Resiliency

Sponsor: Mentor Kenosha & Racine

Description: The conference builds on Mentor Kenosha & Racine's recent major grant award from the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to expand mentoring in area middle schools. Additional workshop topics include program capacity building, preparing youth for the workforce, juvenile justice and gang discussion panels, Mentor Kenosha & Racine program certification, and connecting schools with mentoring programs. The conference will also include networking opportunities at an Appreciative Inquiry Lunch and an end of day "schmoozing" and book signing session. Internationally renowned resiliency author and educator Nan Henderson will deliver the conference keynote address, titled, "Mentoring for Resiliency: Building 'Bounce Back' Kids." Ms. Henderson will also lead workshops that will provide practical applications of resiliency principles.

For more information:

<http://www.uwp.edu/departments/community.partnerships/documents/MKRCConference.doc>



These grant opportunities may be applicable to you or partner organizations.

Title: Weed and Seed Communities

Funder: U.S. Department of Justice

Description: The Justice Department's Community Capacity Development Office's FY 10 Weed and Seed Communities Competitive Program provides discretionary grant funding to nonprofits and government agencies in communities that were not previously approved Weed and Seed sites but have been so designated by Congress.

Award: Up to \$150,000

Eligibility: Applicants are limited to state, local, or tribal governments or nonprofit organizations in communities with persistent high levels of serious violent crime.

Deadline: December 1, 2009

For more information: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ccdo/funding/appl_kit.html

Title: William T. Grant Distinguished Fellows Program

Funder: William T. Grant Foundation

Description: The goal of the Distinguished Fellows Program is to increase the supply of,

demand for, and use of high-quality research in the service of improved youth outcomes and well-being. To accomplish this goal, the program gives researchers the opportunity to immerse themselves in practice or policy settings and gives influential mid-career practitioners and policymakers the opportunity to work in research settings.

Award: Up to \$175,000

Eligibility: Applicants must be influential mid-career practitioners, policymakers, or researchers (see the Application Guide for definitions of terms); submit a proposal that advances the William T. Grant Foundation's Current Research Interests; and propose one or two tax-exempt private and governmental organizations that are willing to "house" and mentor the Fellow.

Deadline: January 6, 2010

For more information:

http://www.wtgrantfoundation.org/funding_opportunities/fellowships/william_t_grant_distinguished_fellows

Title: AmeriCorps State and National Grants

Funder: AmeriCorps

Description: Subject to the availability of appropriations for fiscal year 2010, the corporation announces the anticipated availability of approximately \$363 million to award new, re-competing, and continuation AmeriCorps State and National grants. The grant categories are State Commission and National Competitive, including Professional Corps and Fixed-Amount Grants; State and National EAP; States and Territories without Commissions; and Indian Tribes. In the FY 2010 competition, the corporation's funding priorities are projects that address compelling, unmet needs in one or a combination of the following five national service priority areas: education, clean energy/environment, healthy futures, veterans, and opportunity.

Award: The total funding available for these grants will be set by Congress through the appropriations process now under way. If the president's fiscal year 2010 budget request is fully funded, the agency anticipates approximately \$363 million to be available for new, re-competing, and continuation grants in all of the AmeriCorps State and National grant categories.

Deadline: January 26, 2010

For more information:

http://www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa_detail.asp?tbl_nofa_id=74