



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:

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.
~Eleanor Roosevelt

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**Mentoring System
Involved Youth Highlights**

Building on Your Successes

Over the past 3 years, you've worked together to develop and deliver the best mentoring programs possible for youth in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. We've identified a number of lessons learned and good practices for programs mentoring system-involved youth. Listed below are a few examples:

- Include in the initial and ongoing mentor training a review of challenges encountered by system-involved youth, tips and strategies mentors can use to respond, and a chance for role-play practice.
- Provide matches with opportunities to build a relationship though personally challenging, team building experiences such as a ropes course or skill developing activities.

- Establish a maximum number of mentoring matches a case manager will supervise to allow quality, in-depth conversations during check-ins.
- Hold regular check-ins with mentors and youth to solicit their feedback about the program as well as how they have achieved outcomes. Regularly collect written reports from mentors of how they spent their time with youth and any reflections on how mentoring makes a difference for the youth.
- Identify the highest priority activities of staff to support matches, and provide staff with the time and resources to perform these activities (e.g. provide cell phone to call mentors, scheduled time to visit matches, etc.).

What successes and lessons learned do you want to build on in your project? As you move forward, consider how to build your successes and lessons learned into your program manuals and policies, mentor training, and program activities.



Animal-Assisted Therapy Program Leads to Troubled Teens and Canines Helping Each Other

A dozen teens from Oakland County's Children's Village in Michigan have been paired with a handful of rambunctious dogs from Oakland Pet Adoption in an animal-assisted therapy program. The teens, placed by the courts into the Oakland County facility for troubled youth and juvenile offenders, have been challenged with the task of training the dogs—who have lingered at the shelter because of behavioral problems—into well-behaved, adoptable pets. For more information about the program, go to

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20100208/METRO02/2080328/1409/METRO/Troubled-teens--canines-help-each-other>
<http://www.detnews.com/article/20100208/METRO02/2080328/1409/METRO/Troubled-teens--canines-help-each-other>.

University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) gets Government Grant for Foster Kids Mental Health

Mental health services for foster kids could get a boost thanks to research at UIC. Social work researchers at UIC have received a nearly \$1 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health. The funds will be used to analyze ways for social workers to address behavior problems in child-welfare settings. To learn more, go to

<http://www.suntimes.com/lifestyles/health/2056422,uic-kids-mental-health-021810.article>.

Juvenile Justice Certificate Program Announced for 2010

On July 9–15, 2010, in Washington, D.C., the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute will hold its Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare: Multi-System Integration Certificate Program for Public Sector Leaders. Designed for public agency leaders responsible for developing and implementing policy and practice, this weeklong program uses a multisystem, multidisciplinary approach, focusing on efforts that benefit youth involved in more

than one system of care. The application deadline is March 24, 2010. For additional information and to apply online, visit <http://cijr.georgetown.edu/certprogs/public/certificatepublic.html>.

Practices to Foster and Avoid in Out-of-School Time Programs

Two new Child Trends briefs highlight 10 practices to foster and 10 practices to avoid to improve outcomes for youth in out-of-school time programs. To read *Practices to Foster in Out-of-School Time Programs*, go to

<http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102971163456&s=27946&e=001uRERGTi8fLJ86fZmNJrVRm-YloZhfbPouu8V3nDIQnN39htJJNYBInauShxbZ-FmvPEo7eL2wywcD1ekaxAjZq71L4eKRAGMKwbVJ2AG2asGyaRwiE6jCfcGdL8zHvG4SJOJqcimmXL1wbO0P9DeDno1vknerlcyZvjncFC5BvB8EUoPVNkplMtZbxV3QB9qTKwsTWK48Fw=>.

To read *Practices to Avoid in Out-of-School Time Programs*, go to

http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102971163456&s=27946&e=001uRERGTi8fLLPEc4pQ17kw5_c8XKWgzqW4yh8AEBtje96xNv6wl7WAIvZe2K5I5UX1W5fEYTMmh-2NhW1j0D2naOnb4hc8PQ97CmVmSrPUExAjKT6x9zfCSrXwjTczbhinXM9eVj8vrL1nZ1Mjx-ncLwGg7Wvqr0-8Fg4axN7eoZe85w70brLQi9K1HaNUelo.

Conferences and Events

Dates: March 8, 2010, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (EST) and March 10, 2010, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (EST)

Title: Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring Webinar

Sponsor: MENTOR and the MetLife Foundation

Description: This Webinar is geared toward mentoring programs and will provide an overview of the third edition of the *Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring*, highlighting the research and studies that underpin the benchmarks and suggested enhancements. Featured speakers include Dr. Jean Rhodes, chair, MENTOR's Research & Policy Council and Professor of Psychology, University of Massachusetts Boston; and Dr. Janis Kupersmidt, president and senior research associate of Innovation Research & Training. Dr. Kupersmidt managed the revision of MENTOR's *Elements*. The Webinar will be offered twice, and participants can select which works best for their schedule.

Web site and registration: <http://www.mentoring.org/news/175/>

Date: March 24–26, 2010

Location: New Orleans, Louisiana

Title: Break Through With Youth! Evidence & Strengths Based Interventions for Working with Youth and Adolescents

Sponsor: Joyfields Institute

Description: Top experts in the field of youth and adolescents strategy and tactics will address contemporary and emerging trends in the field of youth and adolescents interventions. Focused on evidence- and strengths-based solutions, this program is developed to enhance the efficacy of correctional staff, service providers, case managers, and others who work with youth and adolescents.

Web site: http://www.joyfields.org/training/criminal_justice/jj.html

Date: March 24–27, 2010

Location: San Jose, California

Title: 21st Annual National Service-Learning Conference—Inspire. Imagine. Innovate!

Sponsor: State Farm Companies Foundation and Shinnyo-en Foundation

Description: The conference focuses on service-learning as a way of teaching and learning that builds academic skills and citizenship while addressing community needs in a genuine way. It convenes teachers and other service-learning practitioners, administrators, researchers, policymakers, youth leaders, parents, program coordinators, national service members, community-based organization staffs, and corporate and foundation officers. The conference connects participants with service-learning leaders through three days of plenary sessions, thought leader series, and service-learning projects.

Web site: www.nslc.nylc.org

Date: May 27–28, 2010

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Title: Tutor/Mentor Leadership and Networking Conference

Sponsor: Tutor/Mentor Connection

Description: The conference connects leaders and supporters of volunteer-based tutoring, mentoring, and education-to-career programs with each other. It also builds visibility so that more volunteers and donors will choose to support tutor/mentor programs in the Chicago region.

Web site: <http://www.tutormentorconference.org/>



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

Title: Do Something Growth Grants

Funder: DoSomething.org

Description: Do Something Growth Grants are targeted toward projects that are already developed and sustainable. These grants go toward the next steps of your project and organization to help you as you look to expand your project and grow your impact.

Award: \$500

Eligibility: The applicant must be 25 or under. The applicant must be a U.S. or Canadian citizen.

Deadline: None

For more information: www.dosomething.org/grants/growthgrants

Title: 2010 Drug Free Communities Support Program

Funder: Executive Office of the President's Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and the Department of Health and Human Services' Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP)

Description: ONDCP and CSAP are accepting applications for the fiscal year (FY) 2010 Drug Free Communities Support Program. The program's purpose is to establish and strengthen collaboration to support the efforts of community coalitions working to prevent and reduce substance use among youth.

Award: up to \$125,000 per year over a 5-year period

Eligibility: The application must be submitted by a community-based coalition.

Deadline: March 19, 2010

For more information: samhsa.gov/Grants/2010/SP-10-005.aspx