



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:

All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.
~Martin Luther King, Jr.

In This Issue

Mentoring System Involved Youth Highlights

Useful Resources

Conferences and Events

Grant Opportunities

**Mentoring System
Involved Youth Highlights**

Learning from Mentoring System Involved Youth

During our October Cross Site Meeting you shared the best practices and lessons learned of MSİY projects. Over the next few months, we will share some of your insights in this section of the newsletter.

January is the annual National Mentoring Month celebration. With the increased attention and interest in mentoring, our conversation explored how MSİY programs have addressed selecting mentors for work with system involved youth. What makes for a good mentor? What skills does the mentor need to bring, and what training can programs provide to build mentor readiness?

These are important questions that become more critical to thoughtfully address for mentoring programs with foster care and juvenile justice involved youth.

Mentors Should:

- Understand their own life experiences and cultural perspectives, and have an awareness of their own cultural biases
- Communicate in an authentic, intentional, supportive way
- Be committed and persistent
- Be thick-skinned; don't take things personally
- Demonstrate respect, empathy and understanding
- Be non-judgmental, supportive
- Be a good, active listener
- Be able to relate to youth through common backgrounds or life experiences

Mentor Training Should Address:

- The foster care and juvenile justice systems and the typical experience and challenges of youth in these systems
- Developmental challenges and strengths of system involved youth
- Cultural experience of program youth beyond race, class, and gender, and how mentors should explore their own cultural biases

Organizations Will Need to:

- Understand individuals' motivation for becoming a mentor and ask the right questions to address motivation
- Understand clearly the mission of the mentoring program and the needs of the youth being served – Is the mentoring relationship to provide a supportive, caring relationship or provide a supportive relationship that helps build identity?
- Have strategic conversations with mentors to address these issues in both pre-match and ongoing training

This represents just the beginning of our rich discussion. If you have additional ideas or best practices and suggestions, please share them with the group via the MSIY listserv by sending an email to 'msiy @ mailman . edc . org'.



Longitudinal Study Finds Detention Causes Criminal Behavior

A new study published in the *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry* shows that juvenile delinquents were seven times more likely to commit criminal acts as adults than youth who never entered the juvenile justice system. Coauthor Dr. Tremblay says that a key solution to this problem "is to implement prevention programs before adolescence when problem children are more responsive." To learn more, go to

<http://www.aecf.org/MajorInitiatives/JuvenileDetentionAlternativesInitiative/Resources/Dec09newsletter/JJNews2.aspx>.

Major League Baseball Ad Pitches Mentoring Programs

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Juvenile Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has launched a "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" ad campaign to encourage adults to become mentors. The ad is expected to reach 3.5 million people and has appeared in the game programs for the 2009 American League Championship Series, the National League Championship Series, and the World Series. It will also be placed in the program for the 2010 All-Star game. For more information, go to http://www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojjdp/news_at_glance/228602/on_4.html#2.

Bulletin Provides Data on Juvenile Residential Facilities

OJJDP has released *Juvenile Residential Facility Census, 2006: Selected Findings*. The bulletin provides data from the Juvenile Residential Facility Census, which collects information about the facilities in which juvenile offenders are held. Facilities report on such characteristics as size, structure, type, ownership, and security arrangements. They also describe the range of services they provide to youth in their care. In addition, facilities report on the number of deaths of youth in custody during the prior 12 months. According to the census, the population of juvenile offenders in custody decreased 3 percent from 2004, a trend that may be explained by the decline in juvenile arrests. The bulletin is available online at www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=250141.

Youth Receiving Reentry Services with Mentoring Achieve Better Outcomes

The Youth Reentry Task Force of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition has released the brief *Back on Track: Supporting Youth Reentry From Out-of-Home Placement to the Community*. According to studies cited, recently released youth receiving reentry services with mentoring achieved better outcomes than youth who simply received traditional probation services. These outcomes included reductions in drug use, lower recidivism, and increased referrals to educational, employment, and mental health services. To read the brief, go to http://www.sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/CC_youthreentryfall09report.pdf.

New Report on Youth Values and Beliefs

In 1989, Girl Scouts of the USA published *Girl Scouts Survey on the Beliefs and Moral Values of America's Children*, which surveyed young people on issues such as teen pregnancy, drugs, drinking, community engagement, and more. Twenty years later, Girl Scouts of the USA decided to revisit the research, which led to the publication *Good Intentions: The Beliefs and Values of Teens and Tweens Today*. This publication highlights the beliefs, values, and commitments that youth express, as well as generational differences from the 1989 study. To read *Good Intentions: The Beliefs and Values of Teens and Tweens Today*, go to http://www.girlscouts.org/research/pdf/good_intentions_full_report.pdf.

Most Minor Delinquents Diverted from the Juvenile Justice System Avoid Reoffending

New research shows that most young people who are kept out of the formal juvenile justice system do not reoffend. Research from Multnomah County's Department of Community Justice (DCJ) showed that, among 271 young people surveyed, nearly eight out of 10 who received no formal supervision did not reoffend within a year. Of this group, two years out, 75 percent had not been referred by police or the district attorney for a criminal offense. When they do reoffend, most of the time, it was for less serious offenses. To learn more, go to <http://www.aecf.org/MajorInitiatives/JuvenileDetentionAlternativesInitiative/Resources/Dec09newsletter/JDAISiteUpdates7.aspx>.

Conferences and Events

Date: February 25–26, 2010

Location: West Palm Beach, Florida

Title: Evidence-Based Programs: Lasting Impacts

Sponsor: Children's Services Council

Description: The purpose of this conference is to provide a clear understanding of what evidence-based means and the skills that program providers can use every day to improve their chances of achieving positive outcomes for their communities. Most importantly, this conference takes the concept of evidence-based programming to a new and exciting level. It goes beyond programs and practices—it's about accountability for results, resources, and costs. National experts will describe the implications—on a national level—about impact on policy, return on investment, and cost benefits.

Web site: http://www.cscpbcc.org/ebc_present

Date: June 14–16, 2010

Location: Arlington, Virginia

Title: National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Conference 2010

Sponsor: NIJ

Description: NIJ's annual conference brings together criminal justice scholars, policymakers, and practitioners at the local, state, and federal levels to share the most recent findings from research and technology. The conference showcases what works, what doesn't work, and what the research shows as promising. It puts a heavy emphasis on the benefits to researchers and practitioners who work together to create effective evidence-based policies and practices.

Web site: http://ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/events/nij_conference/welcome.htm

Grant Opportunities

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

Title: Pepsi Refresh Project

Funder: Pepsi

Description: Pepsi is hosting a grants program focusing on health, arts and culture, food and shelter, the planet, neighborhoods, and education. Each month in 2010, Pepsi will fund 32 projects, ranging from \$5,000 to \$250,000.

Award: Each month, up to \$1.3 million will be awarded as follows: 2 Grants at the \$250,000 level; 10 Grants at the \$50,000 level; 10 Grants at the \$25,000 level; and 10 Grants at the \$5,000 level.

Eligibility: All legal residents of the United States residing in one of the 50 United States or the District of Columbia who are 13 years of age and older.

Deadline: Submissions for March are being accepted until Pepsi receives 1,000 ideas. Voting on accepted submissions takes place throughout the following month. If your idea was not accepted, you can try again the next month.

For more information: <http://www.refresheverything.com/how-it-works>

Title: Second Chance Act Adult and Juvenile Offender Reentry Demonstration Projects

Funder: Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and OJJDP

Description: The Second Chance Act Adult and Juvenile Offender Reentry Demonstration Projects provide support to enable state, local, and tribal governments to develop and implement comprehensive and collaborative strategies that address the challenges posed by prisoner reentry and to reduce recidivism.

Award: Contingent upon the availability of funds and the number of offenders projected to be served, awards of up to \$750,000 will be made.

Eligibility: Applicants are limited to state and local government agencies and federally recognized Indian tribes.

Deadline: March 4, 2010

For more information:

<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/grants/solicitations/FY2010/SecondChanceMentoring.pdf>