



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:

One's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions.
~ Oliver Wendell Holmes

MISY Highlights

This is a new section in the newsletter to highlight various activities and innovative ideas from the Mentoring Initiative for System Involved Youth. Grantees are encouraged to send their ideas, stories, and successes to ageller@edc.org for the next newsletter.

From Philip Day, Mentor Match, Lutheran Family Services of Virginia

I am passionate about writing, whether it is fiction, non fiction, or business-related issues. I also regularly read the editorial pages of several metropolitan newspapers. So I thought that perhaps there was a way to take my love of writing and promote and educate the newspaper readership about our mentoring and foster care services without having to pay a dime for it. I checked out several area newspapers online and wrote to their editors letting them know that I was interested in writing a column about mentoring and foster care/juvenile justice issues for their papers. The editor of the *Petersburg Progress-Index* wrote me to say he was interested. I called him and arranged for a monthly column in his Sunday paper (when its circulation is at its highest—14,500) and agreed on the maximum number of words and subject matter (mentoring, foster care, adoption, juvenile justice issues). The column is published both online and as a hard copy. It's only our second column but we hope that it will bring us recruits and keep us in the public eye, especially in the Southside region of the Richmond metropolitan area. To view the August issue, please visit http://www.progress-index.com/site/index.cfm?newsid=18665551&BRD=2271&PAG=461&dept_id=462946&rfi=8Useful%20Resources.

Hello from Brent, Hilary and Johnnetta of PIRE, the Evaluation Team

September is a good month for new beginnings, and next month we are implementing the national MSY evaluation. We are looking forward to this for two reasons: first, it is a chance to work more closely with all of you great people; and second, being evaluators, we can hardly wait to get our hands on your data. After an all-day meeting in June between PIRE; the OJJDP program manager, Dr. Mike Shader; and a leading mentoring expert, Dr. David Dubois, initial decisions were made about potential surveys. The evaluation then officially began with a small pilot in August and feedback from that was very helpful. We are still soliciting final feedback on the package of surveys this week from all grantees. The final submission for IRB will be reviewed at the September 19, 2007, meeting. In the meantime, we plan to contact you by telephone and email about:

- Arranging a site visits during mid-September to mid-October.

- Having our first Go-To-Meeting with the grantees on September 14 at 1:00 p.m. (EST). At this meeting, we will review the evaluation package and learn details of the mechanism for collecting process.

We are well on our way. We will be talking to you all “real soon”.

Teleconference on Recruiting African American Male Mentors

The Technical Assistance and Training Program (TATP) for MSIY held a tele-discussion with Shawn Dove, president and CEO of Dove Ventures, and Muntu Mbonisi, executive director of the Mentoring Center. The discussion focused on strategies to recruit African American males, including marketing techniques and internal programmatic changes. Notes will be available on our Web site soon www.mentoringsiyouth.org. An audio recording will also be available.

Useful Resources

Chapin Hall Research on Youth Aging Out of Foster Care Presented to Legislators

On July 12, the Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support, part of the Committee on Ways and Means in the U.S. House of Representatives, held a hearing to discuss services and outcomes for children who age out of the foster care system. Chapin Hall Faculty Associate Mark E. Courtney shared the findings of a report that showed that young people who are forced to leave the foster care system at age 18 face formidable challenges and often struggle to stay in school, find stable housing, and support themselves financially. To read the testimony, click http://www.chapinhall.org/article_abstract.aspx?ar=1458. To read the related report, *Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth*, click http://www.chapinhall.org/article_abstract.aspx?ar=1355.

Brief Reviews Trauma Among Youth in Juvenile Justice System

The National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice has published "[Trauma Among Youth in the Juvenile Justice System: Critical Issues and New Directions](#)." This research and program brief provides an overview of trauma among youth in the juvenile justice system, including its scope and impact; and reviews tools, curricula, and approaches for addressing trauma among justice-involved youth. Issues related to implementing trauma services within the juvenile justice system context are also discussed. This brief is available online at http://www.ncmhjj.com/pdfs/Trauma_and_Youth.pdf.

Improving Psychological Outcomes for Children in Foster Care

Casey researchers have coauthored “An Evaluation of Recovery Factors for Foster Care Alumni with Physical or Psychiatric Impairments: Predictors of Psychological Outcomes.” Published in the August 2007 issue of *Child and Youth Services Review*. This article explores services that may improve psychological outcomes across the lifetime of children and adolescents who experience physical or psychiatric impairments while in foster care. You can [purchase the article online at ScienceDirect.org](#).

Conferences and Events

Date: September 17–20, 2007

Location: New Orleans, Louisiana

Title: National Training on Graduated Sanctions in Juvenile Justice

Sponsor: National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

Description: This national training on implementing and enhancing juvenile sanctions is designed to bring together juvenile justice professionals from a wide range of disciplines. Juvenile justice system personnel, judges, detention center personnel, public defenders, social workers, and health professionals will come together to discuss a comprehensive system of graduated responses to youth delinquency. Sessions will cover prevention programs, youth court programs, developmentally appropriate interventions, and reentry issues. J. Robert Flores will serve as the keynote speaker.

Web site: <http://www.ncjfcj.org/content/view/696/315/>

Date: October 29–31, 2007

Location: Washington, D.C.

Title: The National Conference on Safe Schools and Communities

Sponsor: Hamilton Fish Institute and OJJDP

Description: The conference will feature multiple workshops and training tracks focusing on effective programs and strategies relating to school and community safety. Confirmed plenary speakers include U.S. Department of Justice Assistant Attorney General Regina Schofield and U.S. Department of Education Assistant Deputy Secretary Deborah Price. One of the tracks will focus on how mentoring can assist in the prevention of violence.

Web site: <http://gwired.gwu.edu/hamfish/annualconference/2007>

Date: February 25–27, 2008

Location: Washington, D.C.

Title: Child Welfare League of America 2008 Conference

Sponsor: Child Welfare League of America

Description: This conference will focus on the relationship between outcomes, integration, and public policy. Attendees will discuss building public will and achieving positive change for children. Check back this fall for information about specific workshops and speakers.

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

Grant Opportunities

Title: Be a Lead Agency for Global Service Youth Day 2008

Funder: Youth Service America

Description: Help Youth Service America promote Global Service Youth Day by leading local service projects with youth and making connections to local media, politicians, and community groups. Global Service Youth day seeks to highlight the contributions that youth make to their cities and towns and set young people on a path of life-long community service.

Award: \$2,000

Eligibility: Any U.S. or Canadian organization that engages youth in community service.

Deadline: September 17, 2007

For more information: <http://ysa.org/GYSD/LeadAgency/tabid/177/Default.aspx>

Title: YouthPower Grants

Funder: Youth Service America and OJJDP

Description: Grants to support youth-led service projects for foster care youth and youth transitioning out of foster care. Projects can address themes such as the environment, disaster relief, public health and awareness, hunger, or any issue that youth identify as a community need. Service projects will take place on April 25–27, 2008 as part of Global Youth Service Day.

Award: \$1,000

Eligibility: Youth-serving organizations that have experience working with youth in the foster care system.

Deadline: October 1, 2007

For more information: www.YSA.org/awards